

Message Text

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51
ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 INR-07

/048 W
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R 271013Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KS
SUBJECT: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER
DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 012376

SUMMARY: MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH
KOREA IN 1963 AND TWENTY SPECIFIC DATA EXCHANGE ANNEXES
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SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO HAVE GENERALLY PROVED TO BE A

FAVORABLE FACTOR IN ROK/US RELATIONS AND EMBASSY HAS
NO SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

1. MILITARILY, DATA EXCHANGE ANNEXES HAVE ENHANCED ROK
UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. EQUIPMENT IN THEIR
INVENTORY AND THEIR ABILITY TO USE IT; ALSO KOREANS'
MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONAL, AND LOGISTICS PLANNING HAS
BENEFITED. MORE IMPORTANTLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR MUTUAL
INTEREST IN GREATER ROK SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SECURITY
FIELD, KOREANS ARE INCREASINGLY USING DATA ACQUIRED TO
DEVELOP THEIR OWN DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND THEIR RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SPECIFICALLY, DATA FLOW
HAS BEEN USEFUL TO THEM IN THEIR EXPERIMENTATION TO
ADAPT OLD U.S. EQUIPMENT TO FUTURE NEEDS AND IN
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CONVENTIONAL EQUIPMENT, I.E. KPRC-6
RADIO AND 3.5 INCH ROCKET. WHILE MILITARILY WE HAVE
NOT GAINED ANY QUID PRO QUOS AS YET, ROK R&D EFFORT IS
DYNAMIC AND WE CAN FORESEE TIME NOT TOO FAR OFF WHEN
RETURN FLOW ON ELECTRONIC, SMALL ARMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
ADVANCES MAY PROVE USEFUL TO US.

2. POLITICALLY, DATA AGREEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN USEFUL.
KOREANS HAVE APPRECIATED OUR DISCLOSURES AS ADDITIONAL
INDICATION OF OUR TRUST AND SUPPORT AND THERE HAVE BEEN
NO NOTICEABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM ONE OR TWO REBUFFS WHEN WE
HAVE DENIED INFORMATION ABOVE CONFIDENTIAL LEVEL, TO WHICH
AGREEMENT IS LIMITED BY NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY. DEAS
ARE ONE BASIS FOR OUR CLAIM TO CONTINUING ACCESS TO ROK R&D
EFFORTS AND TO THEIR INTENTIONS IN DEFENSE INDUSTRY FIELD.
GIVEN ROK PROCLIVITIES FOR GOING OFF IN DIRECTIONS NOT ALWAYS
IN US INTEREST THIS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR. ON OTHER HAND TO
CUT OFF DATA FLOW WOULD BE SHOCK TO ROK CONFIDENCE IN US
SUPPORT, AND COULD LEAD TO THEIR IMPOSING LIMITATIONS ON
R&D DATA THEY ARE NOW PROVIDING US.

3. AGAINST THIS GENERAL BACKGROUND FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS
TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.

(A) PERSONNEL SUPPORT COSTS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL WITH ONLY A
TENTH OF ONE JUSMAG-K OFFICER'S TIME SPENT ON ADMINISTERING
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MASTER AGREEMENT AND ITS ANNEXES.

(B) CHIEF OF MISSION HAS NOT EXERCISED CLOSE CONTROL OVER
DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATIONS ON PROJECTS BUT RELIES ON JUSMAG
CHIEF, WHO IS IN POSITION TO EXERCISE FULL CONTROL, TO FLAG
IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OR ISSUES IN THIS AREA. THIS
ARRANGEMENT HAS SO FAR PROVED SATISFACTORY.

(C) THE ROKS HAVE BUILT FIVE OR SIX HUNDRED KPRC-6 (SQUAD/PLATOON LEVEL) RADIOS WITH THE HELP OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED UNDER ONE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEAS. THEY HAVE NOT INITIATED REGULAR PRODUCTION AS YET.

(D) EXISTENCE OF AGREEMENT HAS NOT IN ITSELF ENCOURAGED EXCESSIVE DATA REQUESTS; BOLD AS BRASS, THE ROKS SOONER OR LATER WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR MORE THAN WE WERE PREPARED TO GIVE, REGARDLESS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INFORMATION FLOW. IN FACT, 90 TO 95 PERCENT OF KOREAN REQUESTS UNDER DEAS HAVE BEEN FOR UNCLASSIFIED DATA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TENDENCY RECENTLY HOWEVER, FOR THEM TO GO BEYOND OUR LIMITS. AT 1974 SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WE HAD TO TURN DOWN ROK REQUEST FOR BLANKET INCREASE IN LEVEL OF INFORMATION PROVIDED FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO SECRET. WE SAID AT SAME TIME WE WOULD REVIEW SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR SECRET DATA ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. SOME CASES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BUT US RECENTLY TURNED DOWN ROK REQUEST FOR SECRET INFORMATION ON LASER GUIDED BOMBS WHICH ROKS DO NOT HAVE IN THEIR INVENTORY.

(E) OUR "MONEY'S WORTH" HAS BEEN OBTAINED IN GENERAL MILITARY AND POLITICAL SENSE DISCUSSED IN OPENING PARAGRAPHS. REVERSE DATA FLOW MAY WELL DEVELOP IN FUTURE.

(F) EMBASSY HAS NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN MASTER AGREEMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DATA, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MILITARY INFORMATION PROGRAMS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SEOUL01278
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0544
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975027/aaaaaflh.tel
Line Count: 142
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 75 STATE 012376
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS
TAGS: MASS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006